

District III Advisory Board Minutes
June 4, 2008
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The District III Advisory Board meeting was held at 7 p.m. at the Wichita Water Center at 101 E Pawnee. Eight District Advisory Board members were in attendance; 12 City staff and 10 members of the public (two did not sign in) were present.

Members Present

Teresa Cook
Judy Dillard
Charlotte Foster
Jim Gulick
Joann Hartig
Paula Hearn
Billie Tucker
Bill Ward
Council Member Jim Skelton

Members Absent

John Kemp
DeWayne Kitchen
Georgia Lambke

Staff Present

Batt. Chief Rob Hughes, WFD
Off. Ginny Wylie, Patrol South
Off. Barry Gomes, Patrol South
Sgt. Lem Moore, Patrol South
Off. Dave Hinnners, Patrol East
Shawn Mellies, Engineering
Rob Raine, Finance
Larry Hoetmer, Park and Rec
Sid Newby, WFD
Justin Harper, WFD
Seth Goodin, WFD
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Services

Guests

Listed on the last page

ORDER OF BUSINESS

At 7:02 p.m. **Council Member Jim Skelton** called the meeting to order. The meeting minutes from May 7, 2008, were approved.

PUBLIC AGENDA

Scheduled items

No scheduled items.

Non-Scheduled items

No items.

STAFF REPORTS

Community Police Report

Officer Dave Hinnners, 35 Beat Patrol East, said there has recently been a spike in garage and shed break-ins in the 32 and 33 beats. He said most of the burglaries are occurring during the day. **Charlotte Foster** asked him to check into a problem address in her neighborhood. **Council Member Skelton** congratulated **Officer Hinnners** on the article about him in the newspaper.

Officer Ginny Wylie, 25 Beat Patrol South, reported on a special assignment that was conducted with the railroad. She said they issued nine citations for people who went around the cross bars and they also had an incident where two trespassers (juveniles) jumped of the railroad trestle when a train was coming and were subsequently injured. **Officer Wylie** said the juveniles were throwing rocks at the train.

She also reported there has been an increase in residential burglaries in the 26 Beat, in the 2500 and 2600 blocks of Ida, Laura and Pattie. The burglaries are occurring in the daylight hours and the suspects are forcing back doors and windows to gain entry. She encouraged anyone who sees anything suspicious to call 9-1-1.

Joann Hartig asked about the status of the prostitution stings. **Officer Wylie** said when they first started the stings, there were making around 22 arrests; during the last one they only made two arrests, so they have definitely had a positive impact on the area. **Hartig** said she also had noticed the difference.

Officer Barry Gomes, 28 Beat Patrol South, said he has seen an increase in car larcenies, especially around apartment complexes. He said they are stealing stereos, i-pods and anything else that is visible. **Officer Gomes** said it is important that citizens call in all break-ins because this helps police identify hot spots where they can use bait cars to try and catch the suspects.

Battalion Chief Rob Hughes, WFD, announced the Fire Station 22 ground breaking slated for 1:30 p.m. this Saturday at Denker and Hydraulic. He also reported that the Fire Department had a four-alarm fire Monday on West Central. **Council Member Skelton** asked if fires are up this year. **Chief Hughes** said they have been up for the past 2 or 3 years, with about 40,000 calls a year (70% medical and 30% fires). **Joann Hartig** asked if they are responding to a lot of fire works calls; **Chief Hughes** said not yet, but they will be doing the fire works patrols again this year around the Fourth of July.

Bill Ward commended the Police Department for Camp Awareness.

Action: Receive and file.

NEW BUSINESS

Petition to construct a Water Distribution System to serve lots on 5-9 of McCarty 2nd Addition
Shawn Mellies, Public Works Engineering, presented information on a project to construct a water distribution system for a partially developed area. The estimated project cost is \$105,000, which will be assessed to the improvement district. The estimated assessment to individual properties is \$21,000 per lot of ownership. The signatures on the Petition represent 1 of 2 (50%) resident owners and 80% of the improvement district area.

Paul Davis, 6419 S. Madison Ct., asked if the Applewood Addition would be affected. **Mellies** said no.

Judy Dillard (Ward) made a motion to approve the petition.

The motion passed 8-0.

Action: Recommended approval of the petition.

Petition to construct a Water Distribution System to serve lots on 68th Street South, Minnesota and Cider

Shawn Mellies, Public Works Engineering, presented information on a project that will construct a water distribution system for a partially developed area. The estimated project cost is \$230,000 with \$135,000 assessed to the improvement district and \$95,000 paid by the Water Utility. The estimated assessment to individual properties is \$0.25 per square foot of ownership. The Utility share is for the cost of a dead end main. The signatures on the Petition represent 4 of 6 (67%) resident owners and 85% of the improvement district area. **Mellies** added that the project should actually be cheaper than the figures reflect.

Judy Dillard commented that the lots are very large; **Mellies** said they are commercial lots.

Jim Gulick (Hartig) made a motion to approve the petition.

The motion passed 8-0.

Action: Recommended approval of the petition.

Sales Tax

Rob Raine, Finance Department, presented information on a possible sales tax plan. The City of Wichita currently is financed in part by \$100 million annually generated from the property tax. The City does not currently have a city-only sales tax. The City does receive around \$50 million annually as a share of the County-wide sales tax approved by voters in 1985.

Staff has developed a concept that could allow the property tax mill levy to be reduced from the present 32 mills to as low as 15 mills (a reduction of 17 mills). A proposed city-wide one cent sales tax would be used to offset the revenue lost. The proposed concept is designed to be revenue neutral: increases in sales tax collections would be used to offset reductions in the property tax revenue.

Judy Dillard expressed concern that this could have a negative impact on the poor and the elderly who file for the Homestead Tax relief. She also thinks it would be unfair to low income people because landlords would benefit and the slum lords probably wouldn't pass the savings on to their tenants. **Raine** said according to a study conducted in Kansas, low income citizens spend 16.4% of their income on sales tax and 23.6% of their income on property tax.

Bill Ward said he came to the meeting opposed to the idea of an increase in sales tax, but changed his mind after hearing the presentation and how it would help draw businesses to Wichita.

Joann Hartig said she thinks it will be a hardship on low-income and elderly residents and would prefer if food and medicine were exempt from sales tax. **Raine** said the State determines what things are taxed and the City has no input on those decisions. He pointed out if a person is on a fixed income and owns a house; the sales tax option is a much better deal for them.

Elena Ingle, 3608 Meadow Lane, said she had concerns about how the sales tax option would impact TIFS. **Council Member Skelton** agreed and said he would need to see more information on that aspect.

Paul Davis, 6419 S. Madison Ct., expressed support for the idea.

Matt Goolsby, 355 N. Rock Island, asked how the City would take into account sales tax fluctuations in order to prevent a budget shortfall. **Raine** said the numbers he used in the presentation were 2007 actuals and if the Council decided to move forward, a group of financial experts would need to work together and flush it out.

Jim Gulick said he liked the sales tax proposal because it's attractive to businesses, but he also felt it's important to protect the TIF districts. **Raine** said the State has lowered the mill levy and successfully protected TIFs.

Bill Ward (Gulick) made a motion to ask that the City continue to study the benefits of a City sales tax.

The motion passed 8-0.

Action: Recommended the City move ahead in studying this tax option.

Chapin Park Phase One Improvements

Jeff Best, Law Kingdon and Larry Hoetmer, Park and Recreation, presented the design for the Phase One Development of Chapin Park.

Best said that the Chapin area was used as a municipal landfill from 1954 to 1980; a C&D landfill from 1980-1987; and was covered with fill material in 1988. KDHE has continually been monitoring the site and will continue to (30-year monitoring). He said there have been very few problems at the site.

Best described reviewed the small dogs and large dogs park areas, the recommended porta-pottie enclosures, the bike paths and the flight zone.

Bill Ward wanted to know if the airplanes they fly are line controlled; **Best** said, no, they are remote controlled.

Judy Dillard said she was disappointed to see that the bike path had been moved from along the river to an area on the far south side, and that now the mountain bike paths ran along the river, and wanted to know why. **Hoetmer** explained that because this was once a land fill, the area along the river is too unstable to support a paved bike path. **Dillard** said she would think that the mountain bikes would be just as destructive. **Best** said they use a different type of surfacing for those paths that could be supported.

Teresa Cook wanted to know if they ever use the recycled tire material on paths. **Best** said yes.

Bill Ward wanted to know how much high water from the river will encroach on the park. **Best** pointed out one area that will get wet in the event of high water.

Judy Dillard (Gulick) made a motion to approve the design for Phase 1.

Bill Ward wanted to know when work on Phase 2 would begin. **Hoetmer** said there is currently no money designated in the CIP for Phase 2. **Council Member Skelton** said he would be working on that.

The motion passed 8-0.

Action: Recommended the City approve and implement the design for Phase 1 of Chapin Park.

BOARD AGENDA

Updates, Issues and Reports

Charlotte Foster reported Fabrique had a good meeting. She also expressed her frustration over the fact that MAPC had approved a non conforming billboard after the DAB voted against it. She said it doesn't seem right.

Joann Hartig said they have a new car lot at 301 W. Harry that she has asked City staff to look into.

Judy Dillard reported that the Funston School is being torn down. She also said the State Legislature did not take up a new transportation plan so she wasn't sure how that would impact the 47th Street Project. **Council Member Skelton** said the project is still alive.

Billie Tucker said that START is coming to Hilltop next week and that Friendship Camp starts next week.

Council Member Skelton reported

- Ron Cornejo donated concrete and Key Construction donated goals for a new basketball court at Stearman Park in Planeview.
- The Bluff and Mt. Vernon Park will be the next priority.
- He's still interested in developing a street maintenance program
- He's working with the Mayor and Commissioner Gwen Welshimer on a community building that could possibly include a library, senior center and space for HOP

Action: Receive and file.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for District Advisory Board III will be held at 7 p.m., July 2, 2008, at the Water Center at 101 E. Pawnee.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Assistant – District III

Guests

Larry Manny	1116 Alturas
Kathy Manny	1116 Alturas
Bill Barnes	2707 S. Hillside
Goldie Barnes	2707 S. Hillside
Elena Ingle	3608 Meadow Lane
Jeff Best	2129 Milstead
Paul Davis	6419 S. Madison
Matt Goolsby	355 N. Rock Island